

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 38
By Ketron

A RESOLUTION to create a special joint committee to study issues relative to the Federal Child Nutrition Act, physical education and the Coordinated School Health Improvement Act of 1999.

WHEREAS, Public Chapter 554 of 2000, enacted by the 101st Tennessee General Assembly, established the Coordinated School Health Improvement Act of 1999 in recognition of the health needs of Tennessee's schoolchildren; and

WHEREAS, the Coordinated School Health Improvement Act of 1999 required the establishment of pilot sites across Tennessee, that would utilize the guidelines set forth by the Federal Center for Disease Control and Prevention model, for the implementation of a coordinated school health program to determine, through collected data, the effectiveness of the pilot programs; and

WHEREAS, the 108th United States Congress recently reauthorized the Child Nutrition Act, adding a new requirement that every school receiving federal funding for foodservice programs shall adopt a wellness policy by the start of the 2006-07 school year. This new mandate is intended to push schools to serve more healthy food to children and confront the costly public health threat of obesity; and

WHEREAS, the recently reauthorized Child Nutrition Act also provides opportunities for the individual states to receive federal funding to establish team nutrition networks to promote nutrition education, scientifically based information, and active lifestyles. Requirements for individual state participation include submission of a comprehensive, coordinated program and the appointment of a nutrition network coordinator; and

WHEREAS, there is a recognition by both the legislative and executive branches of government in Tennessee of a convergence of circumstances and opportunities including, but

not limited to: the recognition of the deterioration of the health of Tennessee's school children, that the Tennessee General Assembly proactively created a pilot project to study ways to improve the health of Tennessee's school age children, and that the Congress of the United States of America has reauthorized the Child Nutrition Act to include emphasis on wellness; and

WHEREAS, the Departments of Agriculture, Education, Commerce and Insurance, Health, Human Services and the State Board of Education each have unique yet significant responsibilities in the various components and issues relative to the health and well being of Tennessee's schoolchildren; and

WHEREAS, with the recognition of such circumstances and opportunities comes an obligation by the Tennessee General Assembly to establish the goal of achieving full implementation, including full funding, of the Coordinated School Health Improvement Act's recommended school health program in every public school in Tennessee by the year 2010; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that a special joint committee consisting of two (2) members of the House Education Committee, two (2) members of the House Health and Human Resources Committee, two (2) members of the House Children and Family Affairs Committee, two (2) members of the House Commerce Committee, two (2) members of the Senate Education Committee, two (2) members of the Senate General Welfare, Health and Human Resources Committee, and two (2) members of the Senate Commerce, Labor and Agriculture Committee be appointed by the Speakers of the respective chambers to conduct a study and review of the implementation of the Coordinated School Health Improvement Act of 1999, including but not limited to, the current status of the program including collected data, the effectiveness of such pilot program, the expansion of such program to include an emphasis on physical education by the beginning of school year 2006-07, and the cost and revenue required for future expansion of the program to achieve full implementation by 2010.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the special joint committee shall request a report from the administration, by action of the relative state agencies, on the status of Tennessee's

plans, if any, and funding required to participate in the team nutrition network program established through the recently reauthorized federal Child Nutrition Act.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Departments of Agriculture, Commerce and Insurance, Education, Health, Human Services and the State Board of Education or other relevant state agency are directed to provide any assistance and/or information requested by the chair.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all legislative members of the special joint committee shall remain members of such committee until the committee reports its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly and shall be paid as members of the General Assembly are paid for attending legislative meetings as provided in Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 3-1-106.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the committee shall be convened by the member with the most years of continuous service in the General Assembly, and at its first meeting, shall elect a chair, vice chair and such other officers as the committee deems necessary.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all appropriate agencies of state government shall provide assistance to the special committee, upon request of the chair.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the special joint committee shall timely report its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the One Hundred Fourth General Assembly no later than January 17, 2006, at which time the committee shall cease to exist.